The Socio-Economic Impact of Eco-Tourism in Jharkhand With Special Reference to Ranchi District

Proposed Synopsis for the Research

Leading to the award for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

In

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1. State of the Art

Eco-Tourism – Conceptual Framework

The term eco-tourism was coined by Hector Ceballos-Lascurain in 1983. It was initially used to describe nature based travel to relatively undisturbed areas with an emphasis on education. The concept has developed into a scientifically based approach to the planning, management and development of sustainable tourism products and activities. There is a difference between mass tourism and eco-tourism. Unlike mass tourism, eco-tourism emphasizes on the conservation, education, and the welfare of local communities. Eco-tourism focuses on sustainability, conservation, and community participation. Its key objective is to reduce environmental impact by utilizing renewable resources, safeguarding habitats, and minimizing waste. Travelers are encouraged to explore and appreciate nature and local cultures fostering ecological awareness. Local communities actively take part in eco-tourism gaining economic benefits and at the same time preserving their environment. Eco-tourism activities may include wildlife safaris, guided nature walks and cultural tours designed in such a way so that they are both eco-friendly and educational

Eco-tourism is defined by The International Eco-tourism Society (TIES) as "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people." (TIES, 1990). Eco-tourism focuses on linking conservation, local societies, and responsible travel. It strives to reduce harmful effects on nature, communities, and cultural heritage while encouraging appreciation and regard for the environment and diverse traditions. It ensures fulfilling experiences for both travelers and locals while offering financial aid for preservation efforts and boosting regional economies. Eco-tourism highlights the importance of establishing environment friendly infrastructure with minimal ecological disturbance. It acknowledges and values the rights and spiritual traditions of indigenous groups and partner with them to enhance self-reliance and long-term progress.

As per the UNWTO, Eco-tourism is a type of nature-based tourism activity in which the visitor's essential motivation is to observe, learn, discover, experience and appreciate biological and cultural diversity with a responsible attitude to protect the integrity of the ecosystem and enhance the well-being of the local community. Eco-tourism increases

awareness towards the conservation of biodiversity, natural environment and cultural assets both among locals and the visitors.

Eco-tourism has globally emerged as a powerful tool for conservation of forests, biodiversity, wild life and for conservation of scenic landscapes. Realising the potential benefits of Eco-tourism to the local communities, flora and fauna, countries around the world are actively promoting this form of tourism. For example – a small island country Costa Rica located in Central America has emerged as the global leader in eco-tourism in recent times.

Tourism sector as a whole contributed 5% to India's GDP in 2023. There is data unavailability in the GDP contribution by eco-tourism in India. India currently has 43 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and it attracts millions of visitors every year. Recognizing the importance of eco-tourism, the Ministry of Tourism has formulated the National Strategy for Eco-tourism in 2022. This strategy aims to promote ecologically responsible and sustainable tourism practices across the country, focusing on conserving natural resources, protecting biodiversity, and supporting the livelihoods of local communities through eco-friendly tourism initiatives. The Swadesh Darshan scheme was revamped as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 and identifies Eco Circuit as one of the thematic circuits for infrastructure development with an aim to promote tourism in eco-friendly regions. The Travel for LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) programme has also been initiated to promote sustainable tourism and encourage responsible practices.

Connectivity has improved through the UDAN scheme and e-visa facilities for more than 160 countries has led to increase in number of tourist arrivals. The Union Budget 2025-26 has identified tourism as a sector for employment-led growth. The government views tourism as a driver for economic progress and thus has allocated ₹2,541.06 crore in the Union Budget 2025-26. Tourism is set to be a major driver in India's journey to becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Figure 1: International Tourist Arrivals in India (2013-2022)

Source: Ministry of Tourism, India Tourism Data Compendium Key Highlights 2024

The above graph shows the trend of International Tourist Arrivals (ITAs) in India from 2013 to 2023. ITAs, which include Foreign Tourist Arrivals and Non-Resident Indians, grew steadily from 5.92 million in 2013 to a peak of 17.91 million in 2019. However, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a sharp decline to 6.33 million in 2020, followed by a slight increase to 7 million in 2021. Post Pandemic tourists arrival trends shows the V-shaped recovery with ITAs rising to 14.33 million in 2022 and reaching a new high of 18.89 million in 2023, indicating a robust rebound in India's tourism sector.

Eco-Tourism in Jharkhand

Jharkhand is a state located in the eastern part of India and has an area of 79,716 sq. km. It shares borders with Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh. The state has 40% of India’s mineral reserves which includes coal, iron ore, copper, and bauxite

etc. As per the Jharkhand Economic Survey 2024-25, the GSDP of Jharkhand at constant prices was ₹2,85,070 crore in 2023-24 and is estimated to reach ₹3,04,165 crore in 2024-25, nearly doubling since 2011-12. At current prices, the GSDP stood at ₹4,61,010 crore in 2023-24 and is projected to rise to ₹5,06,356 crore in 2024-25. This financial year (2024-25), it is estimated to grow by 6.7% at constant prices and 10.7% at current prices. Poverty in Jharkhand has reduced from 42.10% in 2015-16 to 28.21% in 2019-20. In terms of per capita income, Jharkhand has 26th rank among the states of India with a per capita income of ₹1,05,274 in 2023-24 which is estimated to rise to ₹1,14,271 in 2024-25 and ₹1,24,079 in 2025-26 at current prices. In 2023-24, Jharkhand's tertiary sector contributed 44.4% to GSVA growing from 43.4% in 2016-17. The secondary sector improved from 35% in 2016-17 to 37.5% in 2021-22, but slightly declined to 35.4% of GSVA in 2023-24. The primary sector's contribution to GSVA declined from 25% in 2016-17 to 20% in 2023-24.

Jharkhand is also known as the 'Land of Forests' and is blessed with rich biodiversity, historical landmarks, tribal heritage, and scenic landscapes. The state's tourism potential remains largely untapped due to limited infrastructure and policy implementation challenges. However, recent initiatives such as Jharkhand Tourism Policy 2021 and Jharkhand Tourism Policy 2015 have aimed to develop the sector, particularly eco-tourism, adventure tourism, and religious tourism, to boost economic growth and employment. Jharkhand has also benefited from central government schemes aimed at promoting eco-tourism. Under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, an eco-tourism circuit project linking Dalma, Betla National Park, Mirchaiya, and Netarhat was sanctioned in 2018-19. In 2024-25 the Union government has allocated ₹34.87 Crore for the eco-tourism development of Tilaiyya in Koderma under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment' scheme.

Jharkhand's natural wealth is reflected in its growing forest cover, which increased from 23,721.14 sq km in 2021 to 23,765.78 sq km in 2023, now covering 29.81% of the state's total geographical area (*Forest Survey Report 2023*). This expanding green cover provides immense opportunities for sustainable eco-tourism (Jharkhand Tourism Policy 2021), making Jharkhand a crucial destination for nature-based tourism development.

The Jharkhand Tourism Policy 2015 is aimed to improve infrastructure, road connectivity, and facilities of tourism. It encouraged Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) for incentivising investment in hotels, transport, and tourism projects. It also provided financial support to tourism businesses and worked to preserve heritage. In July 2022, the Chief Minister of Jharkhand Shri Hemant Soren launched the Jharkhand Tourism Policy 2021. It focuses on eco-tourism, religious tourism, adventure tourism, and cultural tourism while involving the private sector. These policies focus on improving tourist spots, attracting private investment, and supporting eco-friendly tourism. The Tourism policy 2021 encourages private investment in hotels, homestays, and eco-lodges under the PPP model. It promotes Jharkhand as a film tourism destination by highlighting scenic places like Patratu Valley, Netarhat, and Hundru Falls. Jharkhand Tourism Policy 2021 offers various incentives like investment subsidies, GST refunds, and electricity duty waivers for attracting investments and for ensuring private sector participation. The government is developing eco-tourism hubs, nature camps, and jungle lodges in places like Betla National Park, Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, and Netarhat. It is expanding eco-friendly accommodations such as forest rest houses, tree houses, and eco resorts, while promoting activities like nature trails, bird watching, and conservation-based tourism. Tribal festivals, art, and handicrafts are being promoted through tourism circuits. The state government has announced plans to transform the Saranda and Dalma wildlife sanctuaries in Kolhan (West Singhbhum) into world-class eco-tourism destinations.

I. Foreign Tourist Inflow in Jharkhand (2021-2023)

Foreign Tourist Inflow in Jharkhand (2021-2023)	
Year	**Tourist Inflow**
2021	1,637
2022	192,319
2023	189,261

Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Jharkhand

The above table shows that International tourist arrivals increased from 1,637 in 2021 to 1.92 lakhs in 2022 as travel resumed after Covid 19 impact. In 2023, the number slightly

dropped to 1.89lakhs but it remained much higher than 2021 showing Jharkhand's progress in attracting global visitors.

II. National Tourist Inflow in Jharkhand (2021-2023)

National Tourist Inflow in Jharkhand (2021-2023)	
Year	**Tourist Inflow**
2021	33,383,642
2022	38,284,379
2023	35,776,102

Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Jharkhand

The above table shows that National tourist inflow in Jharkhand rose from 3.34 crores in 2021 to 3.83 crores in 2022, recovering from COVID-19 impacts. In 2023, it declined slightly to 3.58 crores but remained higher than 2021 reflecting Jharkhand's continued appeal and government efforts to boost tourism.

Eco-Tourism in Ranchi

Ranchi is the capital of Jharkhand. It is divided into Ranchi and Bundu Subdivisions and each subdivisions is further subdivided into blocks, panchayats and villages. The district consists of 18 blocks and 305 panchayats, out of these Ranchi subdivision has 14 blocks and Bundu subdivision has 4 blocks. Due to its pleasant climate, Ranchi served as the capital of Bihar until the formation of Jharkhand as a state in 2000. It is popularly known as the 'City of Waterfalls' due to beautiful waterfalls, making it a major tourist attraction.

Ranchi is also blessed with many eco-tourism sites. Hundru Falls is one of the highest waterfalls in Jharkhand is located on the Subarnarekha River and is a significant tourist attraction especially during monsoons known for its scenic beauty and rock formations. Dassam Falls a cascading waterfall on the Kanchi River is approximately 40 km from Ranchi and is surrounded by dense forests making it an important eco-tourism site. Jonha Falls is also known as Gautamdhara Falls and is associated with Lord Buddha and features a Buddhist temple near the site making it an ideal location for nature lovers and eco-tourists.

Rock garden located on Gonda Hill near Kanke dam has many statues that have been carved out of the rocks of Gonda Hill. Kanke Dam provides a peaceful environment and serves as a hub for both local and domestic tourists. Dhurwa Dam is a tourist spot famous for its scenic beauty and recreational activities. It provides a peaceful setting for picnics, nature walks, and relaxation amidst nature. Birsa Biological Park located near Ormanjhi focuses on wildlife conservation and eco-tourism housing native species such as leopards deer and elephants. Biodiversity Park located in Lalkhatanga reflects the growing awareness and the need for sustainable interactions with our natural surroundings. This park is not just a recreational area but a vibrant centre for learning and conservation.

2. Literature Review

Large number of studies have been conducted at the global, national and state level on the potential of eco-tourism in promoting sustainable economic growth, preservation of natural resources and supporting the socio-economic development of local communities.

Kunjuraman (2022) examined community-based eco-tourism in Malaysian Borneo, exploring its potential to empower local communities and questioning its transformative impact. Similarly, Gupta and Bhatt (2009) studied the Kedarnath sanctuary region in India, showcasing the positive effects of such initiatives in promoting economic growth and environmental conservation.

Honey (2008) and Weaver (2011) highlighted the role of eco-tourism in fostering economic growth while preserving natural and cultural resources. Whiteman (1996) highlighted that eco-tourism aims to raise public awareness about the environment while fostering sensitivity and responsibility among tourists toward nature and its processes.

Kumar and Vyas (2022) conducted a comprehensive review of socio-economic empowerment through eco-tourism, synthesizing existing literature to highlight key themes and trends. Their analysis explored the impact of community-based eco-tourism on local communities, emphasizing its role in economic and social development.

Ranchi, with its diverse ecosystems and cultural heritage, has been briefly explored in regional studies. Sharma (2019) provided insights into the rich biodiversity of the region, while Roy and Singh (2020) examined the cultural significance of landmarks in Ranchi, highlighting their historical and socio-cultural relevance.

Studies by Mohanty et al. (2019), Mafruhah et al. (2019) and Arsad et al. (2021) contributed diverse perspectives on community-based sustainable tourism development. The case studies emphasize that there exists a positive correlation between eco-tourism and economic and social conditions within local communities.

Kerketta and Kasana (2024) examined the involvement of tribal communities in Eco-tourism activities in Chamranga and Lapra Village of Ranchi and how they can benefit from it. Through a comprehensive analysis the study highlights the potential of eco-tourism as a vehicle for sustainable development in tribal communities, with a particular focus on Chamranga and Lapra villages of Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Singh & Pathak (2009), in Tourism in Jharkhand – An Evaluative Study, assessed the challenges, issues, and potential of tourism in Jharkhand. Their research, based on secondary data, identifies key areas requiring intervention to enhance the state's appeal as a tourist destination. The study highlights the need for strategic action to overcome existing obstacles and maximize Jharkhand’s tourism potential.

Mishra and Rout (2013), Chhatoi & Mishra (2018) in their study on Jharkhand's geography and tourism potential discussed the state's hilly undulating plateau, predominantly home to tribal settlements and tropical forests. They highlight how the picturesque hills, valleys, and lush green forests make Jharkhand an enticing tourist destination. The study also emphasizes on the religious and cultural significance of major rivers such as the Subarnarekha, Damodar, Koel, Subarnarekha, and Son for the tribal communities.

Jayswal (2011) recognized tourism as a key instrument for economic development and employment generation, particularly in remote and underdeveloped areas. His study highlights Naxalism as a major barrier to Jharkhand's growth and concludes that tourism can

play a crucial role in resource utilization. He suggests that tourism development could serve as a strategic tool for poverty reduction, job creation, and countering extremism in the state.

Kumar (1996), in the book "Tourism and Economic Development," presented the status of tourism potential of Himachal Pradesh as an instrument of economic development in the state. The text clearly states how the government can partner with private entrepreneurs to promote tourism and boost the local economy. These suggestions are taken by the researcher to investigate and continue his work.

Bull (1995), in "The Economics of Travel and Tourism," has discussed the economic importance of tourism's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a nation. He has suggested ways and means to improve the role of tourism in the aspect of the Balance of Payment of a nation. The literature gave important clues on the national economy-building capacity of tourism entrepreneurs.

(Sharma, 1995) has prescribed the guidelines for establishing monitoring parameters for assessing the impacts of tourism. Parameters for monitoring socio-cultural impacts like demographic changes, social mobility, social cohesion, attitudes and values, the practice of cultural traditions and rituals, and cultural heritage. Parameters for monitoring economic impacts contribution to cash income and livelihood options, land ownership, asset formation, wage rates, the prevalence of child labor, reinvestment of tourism earnings in the locality, and qualitative perception of linkages within the productive sectors resulting from tourism

Mishra and Chhatoi (2017, 2020) has highlighted that the construction of guest houses, tourist help centers, parks, waste management systems, drinking water facilities, sewerage systems, and street lighting contributes significantly to the development of a region while generating employment opportunities. Additionally, Prajapati (2017) has emphasized that tourism development boosts foreign exchange reserves, improves living standards, and enhances the social status of local communities by broadening their perspectives.

3. Problem to be Investigated

Though the number of tourists in Ranchi and Jharkhand has increased in recent years but the growth in eco-tourism has not been satisfactory as per the potential of eco-tourism sites. Some of the reasons for the slow growth of eco-tourism include lack of awareness, unsatisfactory management, lack of promotional activities, inadequate infrastructure, safety concerns, sanitation issues, shortage of skilled tourist guides and hospitality professionals. Despite increasing investments in tourism related services, the sector's performance has not grown proportionately. The evidence that it holds will be collected from the study of books, visitors register and journals. The problem will be addressed by personally visiting the site and interacting with the local residents, tourism stakeholders, and government officials using structured questionnaires and interviews. The socio-economic impact assessment of eco-tourism has not been studied so far for eco-tourism sites in Ranchi. The study will analyse how the tourists arrivals in the selected eco-tourism sites have impacted the socio-economic conditions of people linked to tourism.

Hence, there is a need for a comprehensive assessment of the socio-economic impact of eco-tourism in Ranchi district and a comparative assessment of tourism-promoting factors and, most importantly, the socio-economic impact of eco-tourism on the economy of Jharkhand.

This research will be conducted to check the socio-economic impact of eco-tourism in Jharkhand, with special reference to Ranchi district. The research work will be carried out at eco-tourism destinations in Ranchi. The research will further highlight the importance of preserving natural resources and biodiversity while promoting sustainable tourism practices. The goal is to ensure that eco-tourism contributes to both environmental conservation and socio-economic development in Ranchi district. Through this study, the hidden potential of Ranchi’s eco-tourism sector will be brought to light.

4. Objectives of the Investigation and Motivation

i) To analyze the socio-economic impact of eco-tourism on livelihood earners associated with eco-tourism in Ranchi district.

ii) To analyze the trends in tourist arrivals at eco-tourism sites in Ranchi district.

iii) To evaluate the role of stakeholder collaboration in enhancing the effectiveness of eco-tourism projects in Ranchi District.

iv) To analyze the problems faced by the people involved in eco-tourism during off season.

v) To analyze the future scope of eco-tourism in Ranchi district.

5. Research Questions

Q.1 What is the role of eco-tourism in changing the socio-economic status (SES) of livelihood earners associated with eco-tourism in Ranchi district?

Q.2 What are the trends in tourist arrivals at eco-tourism sites in Ranchi district?

Q.3 What is the role of stakeholder collaboration in enhancing the effectiveness of eco-tourism projects in Ranchi District?

Q.4 What are the key challenges faced by the people involved in eco-tourism during off season?

Q.5 What is the future scope of eco-tourism in Ranchi district?

6. Research Hypotheses

i) H0: There is no significant difference in mean of composite Socio-Economic Status (SES) score indices of livelihood earners in Ranchi associated with eco-tourism, and their counterparts.

H1: There is significant difference in mean of composite Socio-Economic Status (SES) score indices of livelihood earners in Ranchi associated with eco-tourism, and their counterparts.

7. Research Methodology

7.1 Type of Research - This research will adopt a descriptive, exploratory and experimental approach to analyze eco-tourism dynamics.

7.2 Research Design

7.2.1 Experimental Model Used- The study will adopt control and experimental research design to reflect the socio-economic impact of eco-tourism in Ranchi district.

7.2.2 Nature of the Study- The study will utilize descriptive as well as analytical components for assessing the impact of eco-tourism in Ranchi district.

7.2.3 Approach of the Study- Both quantitative as well as qualitative techniques may be utilized for the impact assessment.

7.2.5 Unit of Study

The study will include 150 respondents, divided equally into experimental group (livelihood earners, n=75) and control group (n=75)

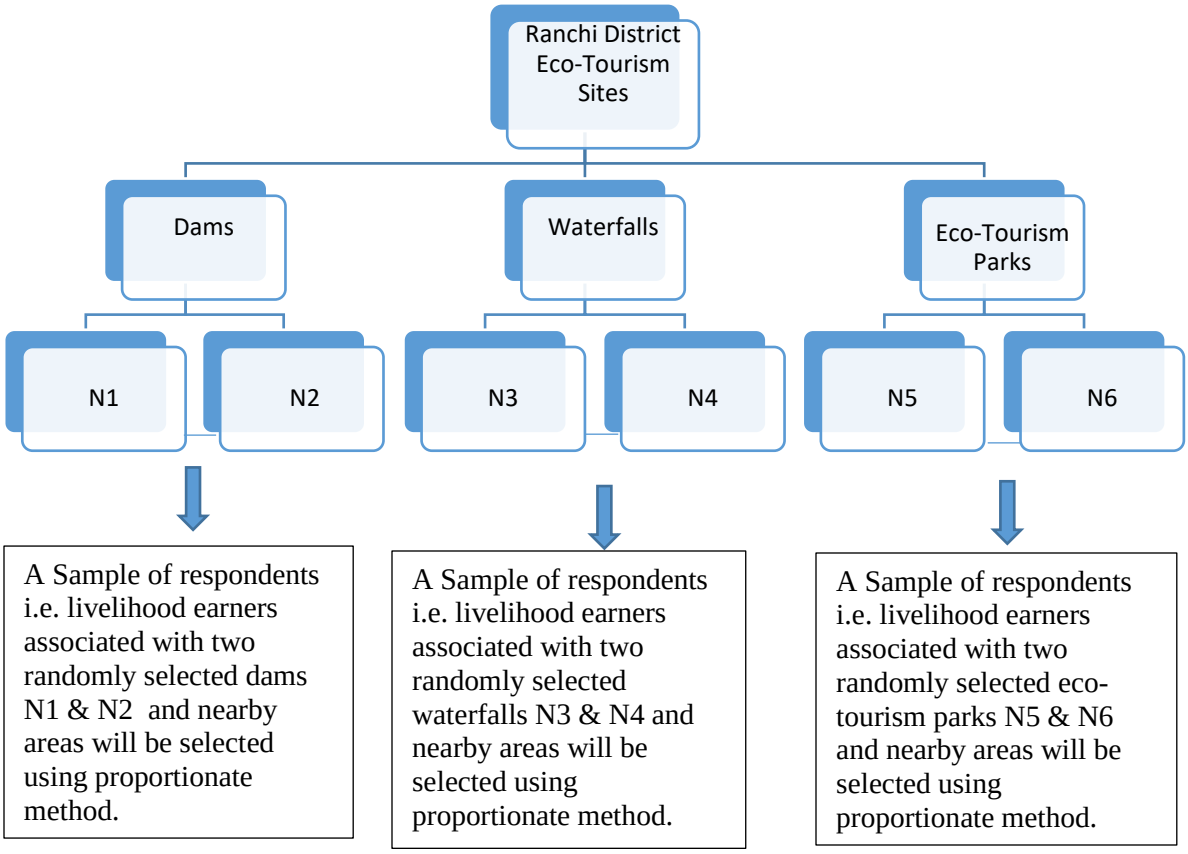
7.2.6 Sampling Plan

Ranchi district has been purposely selected for this study. Eco-tourism sites in Ranchi district can be broadly classified under categories namely dams, waterfalls and eco-tourism parks. There are 18 eco-tourism sites in Ranchi which include 7 waterfalls, 5 dams and 6 eco-tourism parks. Out of these sites, two dams, two waterfalls and two eco-tourism parks will be randomly selected for the purpose of study. From the above 6 randomly selected eco-tourism sites, the control and experimental group will be randomly selected.

S. NO.	Name of Tourist Place	Name of Village/ Municipal Corporation (RMC)	Nature of Eco-Tourism Site
1	GETALSUD DAM	GETALSUD	DAM
2	HATIA DAM	HATIA RMC	DAM
3	KANKE DAM	KANKE RMC	DAM
4	PARAS DAM	GHAGHRA	DAM
5	KARANJI	KARANJI	DAM
6	BHAGWAN BIRSA BIOLOGICAL PARK	CHAKLA	ECO-TOURISM PARK
7	BIO DIVERSITY PARK	LALKHATANGA	ECO-TOURISM PARK
8	ROCK GARDEN	KANKE RMC	ECO-TOURISM PARK
9	CROCODILE PARK	MUTTA	ECO-TOURISM PARK
10	AMBEDKAR PARK	SILLI	ECO-TOURISM PARK
11	MURI DHANGRIW PARK	MURI EAST SILLI	ECO-TOURISM PARK
12	GHAGHARI DHAM FALL	DEVGAON	WATER FALL
13	SITA FALL	GURIDIH	WATER FALL
14	TIRU FALL	SARLE, BURMU	WATER FALL
15	JIKRA FALL	BURMU	WATER FALL
16	DASAM FALL	PANSAKAM	WATER FALL
17	HUNDRU FALL	HUNDRU	WATER FALL
18	JONHA FALL	GURIDIH	WATER FALL

Table – List of Eco-tourism sites in Ranchi district (Source : Department of Tourism – Government of Jharkhand)

Sampling Plan:


Ranchi District Eco-Tourism Sites
Dams
Waterfalls
Eco-Tourism Parks
N1
N2
N3
N4
N5
N6
A Sample of respondents i.e. livelihood earners associated with two randomly selected dams N1 & N2 and nearby areas will be selected using proportionate method.
A Sample of respondents i.e. livelihood earners associated with two randomly selected waterfalls N3 & N4 and nearby areas will be selected using proportionate method.
A Sample of respondents i.e. livelihood earners associated with two randomly selected eco-tourism parks N5 & N6 and nearby areas will be selected using proportionate method.

***Experimental Group- 75 respondents i.e. livelihood earners associated with eco-tourism will be selected using proportionate method.**

***Control Group- 75 respondents who are not associated with eco-tourism will be selected from the location (blocks/villages/municipality) where eco-tourism sites are located.**

7.2.7 Selection of Variables

Dependent Variables:

i) Income

ii) Expenditure

iii) Savings

iv) Assets held

v) Education

vi) Health Status

vii) Status in Family

7.2.8 Method of Research

The study will employ survey method to collect the data from the respondents.

7.2.9 Statistical Analysis

Descriptive Statistics: Individual frequency distributions, Visual representation, comparison using mean and standard deviation will be used.

Inferential statistics: Suitable inferential tests will be employed for testing the significant difference.

8. Logical Framework of the Study

Objectives	Research Questions	Research Hypothesis	Variables of the Study	Statistical tools
i) To analyze the socio-economic impact of eco-tourism on livelihood earners associated with eco-tourism in Ranchi district.	Q.1 What is the role of eco-tourism in changing the socio-economic status (SES) of livelihood earners associated with eco-tourism in Ranchi district?	i) H0: There is no significant difference in mean of composite Socio-Economic Status (SES) score indices of livelihood earners in Ranchi associated with eco-tourism, and their counterparts. H1: There is significant difference in mean of composite Socio-Economic Status (SES) score indices of livelihood earners in Ranchi associated with eco-tourism, and their counterparts.	Income, Expenditure, Savings, Assets held ,Education Health Status, Status in Family.	Descriptive statistics: Individual frequency distributions, Visual representation, comparison using mean and standard deviation . Inferential statistics: Z- test
ii) To analyze the trends in tourist arrivals at eco-tourism sites in Ranchi district.	Q.2 What are the trends in tourist arrivals at eco-tourism sites in Ranchi district?	No hypothesis has been framed as the objective focuses on qualitative assessment.	Tourists arrival and demographic characteristics	Descriptive statistics: Line diagram

iii))To evaluate the role of stakeholder collaboration in enhancing the effectiveness of eco-tourism projects in Ranchi District.	Q.3 What is the role of stakeholder collaboration in enhancing the effectiveness of eco-tourism projects in Ranchi District?	No hypothesis has been framed as the objective focuses on qualitative assessment.	Stakeholders include government agencies, local communities, tour operators, travel agencies, environment conservation organisations, media and marketing agencies etc.	Descriptive statistics: Qualitative Analysis based on open ended questions.
iv)To analyze the problems faced by the people involved in eco-tourism during off season.	Q.3 What are the key challenges faced by the people involved in eco-tourism during off season?	No hypothesis has been framed as the objective focuses on qualitative assessment.	Problems related to nature of job, salary, timely payment, job security, amenities provided etc.	Descriptive statistics: Qualitative Analysis based on open ended questions.
v)To analyze the future scope of eco-tourism in Ranchi district.	Q.5 What is the future scope of eco-tourism in Ranchi district?	No hypothesis has been framed as the objective focuses on qualitative assessment.	Economic potential, Infrastructure development, government policies, etc.	Descriptive statistics: Field based assessments and thematic analysis.

9. Significance of the Study

Eco-tourism in Ranchi is still underdeveloped despite its rich biodiversity. The study assesses eco-tourism's role in socio-economic growth, employment generation, income generation etc. The government of India and the government of Jharkhand is taking immense interest in developing eco-tourism sector. The government of India announced National Strategy on Eco-tourism in 2022, Jharkhand Tourism Policy 2021 aims to promote eco-tourism by developing eco-circuits. The government of Jharkhand also aims to improve the quality of tourist facilities available at wildlife sanctuaries and national parks and develop camping sites with basic infrastructure facilities and public convenience services to harness the potential of eco-tourism.

The research will be helpful in framing strategies for income generation, market expansion, and industrial development, contributing to regional and state progress. It will

highlight economic disparities, infrastructure challenges, and ways to strengthen eco-tourism for poverty alleviation, raising living standards and socio-economic development. It will also give insights about the socio-economic impact created by eco-tourism sites in Ranchi district. It will also provide recommendations for sustainable growth and development of eco-tourism sites in Ranchi and in Jharkhand and for ensuring long-term economic benefits for Jharkhand.

The study will analyze tourist trends, challenges faced by key beneficiaries, and key factors influencing eco-tourism. It will also address transport, accessibility, and infrastructure gaps, suggesting strategies for long-term sustainability.

10. Relevance to Present-Day Challenges and Need to the society

The proposed research will highlight the issue of regional imbalance and disparity in Ranchi district of Jharkhand. It will suggest strategies for employment generation, income generation, raising standards of living, market expansion, industrial development and socio economic development, environment conservation through the promotion of eco-tourism. This will eventually contribute in both regional and state development. .The findings of this research will aid in strengthening the economic upliftment of Ranchi and enhancing its role in Jharkhand's overall development. This study will examine existing challenges and propose actionable plans to promote eco-tourism in the region. A quantitative approach will be adopted to ensure comprehensive and sustainable development.

Further research may be required in specific areas, and these can be explored in future studies by scholars and government agencies. The present study will serve as a foundation for formulating policies and solutions to persistent challenges. It will assess various dynamics of regional development and help improve livelihoods in Ranchi district. By providing a structured analysis, this research will contribute to the long-term sustainability of eco-tourism and the economic prosperity of the region.

11. Contribution to Existing Knowledge

The research will provide clarity on the arrival of tourist visits in the research area. It will also highlight the current trend in eco-tourism in Ranchi, challenges faced by the tourists and the local stakeholders, factors influencing the eco-tourism industry in the research area. The study aims to highlight the Socio-economic impact of eco-tourism in Jharkhand and factors promoting the eco-tourism industry in Jharkhand with special emphasis on Ranchi. Despite Jharkhand's vast eco-tourism potential, challenges such as transport connectivity, accessibility, and infrastructure development persist. This research will analyze these gaps and suggest strategies to enhance long-term sustainability.

12. Future Scope of Work

The study is based on a recall-based methodology, incorporating data from recent years, including the COVID-19 period. The research follows a sample-based approach, which may introduce certain limitations.

Key challenges such as tourism infrastructure gaps, visitor management, hospitality services, and connectivity issues will be explored. The study will assess whether eco-tourism in Ranchi has any Socio-Economic impact on Jharkhand while identifying areas for future research and policy recommendations.

13. Tentative Chapterization:

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Chapter 2 - Review of Literature and Research Methodology

Chapter 3- Socio-Economic Profile of the Study Area.

Chapter 4- Impact of Eco-tourism in Ranchi District

Chapter 5- Key Challenges of Eco-Tourism.

Chapter 6- Findings & Conclusion.

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